Mr. V. Sankara Menon: May I know whether this amount is sufficient enough to carry out the repair of all the instruments which are now lying idle?

Dr. H. Parameswaran: Yes, Sir. We are very anxious to be very economical and to avoid any loss to Government. In this connection I wish to point out that we have not put up any large buildings or engaged the services of many experts. We are carrying on very nicely with local men and at the moment nothing more is needed.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: I wish to know whether the work is being carried on without the help of any expert?

Dr. H. Parameswaran: No Sir. There are people on hand quite competent to deal with every aspect of the work involved.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 2,310 under Demand XXX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—Stores Purchase Committee—was put and carried.

The Demand was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXI—MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: Sir, I move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,000 under Demand XXXI—Miscellaneous Charges. This sum is required for relief measures on account of the refugees who are in distress. The deterioration in the international situation and the occupation by the enemy of Malaya, Singapore and Burma, where a very large number of Travancoreans were employed in one capacity or other, have resulted in their return to Travancore and such of them as have been successfully evacuated from those areas have come back almost destitute. Government are receiving representations from various quarters that they should step in to afford relief to them. Government have also arranged for information being given about the number of persons who are being evacuated into this country from time to time. These Travancore nationals who were abroad and who were living a prosperous life have all been obliged to come back and under conditions entirely different from what they were used to. In the case of those who can afford to find employment here or who possess properties or funds in this country to enable them to carry on, no relief may be required at all. But there are many who stand in real need for relief without which their condition would be altogether miserable. Government have, therefore, as a first step allotted a sum of Rs. 5,000. They are aware that this allotment may prove to be inadequate for the purpose in view. But as further enquiries disclose the need for additional relief, Government will be only too glad to ask this House for fresh

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[Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

provision on this account. As a first measure, therefore, Government have thought it expedient to allot Rs. 5,000 and I hope this House will gladly accord permission for the utilisation of this amount for the purpose now mentioned.

Mr. James Fletcher ; Sir, I support the motion. But I must submit that this sum is not at all adequate as stated by the leader of the House. There is a large number of Travancore nationals who have come back from Malaya and Singapore. In some cases only the women and children have come back leaving the earning member away in those countries. It is not possible for the men now in enemy occupied countries to send money or letters for their wives and children who have escaped to Travancore. It will be a great favour if Government would lend money on their own security so that in due time when their husbands or earning members who are employed outside return and are in a better position, the loans may be repaid. Therefore, I would even request that a larger sum of money may be allotted for the purpose. As the leader of the House has stated that this is only a first instalment, I support the demand and request that further sums may be allotted for this very important purpose.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail : May I know whether there is any means either through the Government of India or through any other means to know the number of Travancoreans employed in Singapore and Malaya before the War began and the number who have been successfully evacuated and the possibility of the remaining people coming into Travancore. Can any such information be gathered by any means ?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai : Information is available in regard to those who were employed abroad and who have been successfully evacuated. But Government are not in a position just now to collect information as to the total number of people employed there before the outbreak of the war or just before the enemy took possession of those places. Government are in a position to know the number of those people who have been evacuated because the Government of India have been pleased to give us timely information as soon as the evacuees are landed in some port in India. Over 500 people have already come over here and many more are coming. We are receiving lists of arrivals from day to day.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mohamed Ismail : I wish to know whether any step has been taken to ascertain the actual number of Travancoreans now in those areas.

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Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai : The Government of India Overseas Department have been asked about it. The relatives here of those people in Singapore and Malaya have made representations to Government as to whether they have any idea of what has become of the people in those areas and their whereabouts. Government are unable to give any definite information about them and for obvious reasons they could not be expected to be given that information by enemy sources. As honourable members are aware, from the very nature of things it is extremely difficult for this Government or, for that matter, for the Government of India to obtain accurate or definite information about particulars relating to those people who have unfortunately been there during the enemy occupation or who have not been able to be successfully evacuated. That is really very distressing. But we cannot get more information than is possible for the Government of India to obtain.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mohamed Ismail : Is it not possible for the Government to get the information from the people inside the State as to the number of persons who have gone outside ? Suppose the Government issues a circular requiring the people of Travancore to furnish information as to the number of people who have gone out to Singapore and Malaya from each family. We can get the information as to the number of people who have been successfully evacuated through the Government of India. Thus we can more or less get the percentage of people who are remaining in the conquered areas. I think the required information can be obtained in this way.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan (*Karunagapally, Karthikapally and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertalla*) : May I know whether we cannot get the required information through the Red Cross Society ?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai : Whatever information is available will be passed on to us by the Government of India. In fact, we have moved the Government of India in that matter, but I am afraid I cannot say that the prospects are very bright in that direction.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Sir, in supporting the demand I am also of the view that this is a very inadequate grant and I am glad that the Government have realised the gravity of the situation.

I wish to draw the attention of the Government to another matter. This House had voted at the annual Budget Session liberally under the Demand for Political Expenditure. We hoped that demands of this nature would come under Political Head. I

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[Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi.]

know that I am not allowed even to attempt to lift the veil of the Political Demand. This House under its very constitution is not entitled to ask for details or lift the veil of the Political Demand. But I wish, if possible, Government should try to make some savings under that budget head and devote that sum to such laudable things as giving relief to the evacuees.

Although I share the enthusiasm of my friend Mr. Fletcher for giving some relief to the evacuees, I do not go to the extent of supporting the suggestion that we should go on with a scheme of elaborate granting of loans to them. Loans all over the world, particularly in Travancore, have a tendency of not coming back. It is the same case whether it be agricultural loan, industrial loan or educational loan. The old Shakesperean adage applies to Governmental loans also. It must be the policy of Government to give them free help as far as possible.

Mr. James Fletcher: May I know whether the honourable member is aware that the Government of India are giving loans to those evacuees in India whose husbands or near relatives are in the enemy occupied areas?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: In fact, I am not aware of it. But my humble suggestions to this House are not based on what another Government may do or may not do. Under the particular conditions of British India or of certain women whose husbands may be, say, employees in the consular service of the Government of India, they may be doing that. They may give grants or advance money on the security of their salaries. But, under the conditions now prevailing in Travancore, it is my decided view that the Government would be embarking upon a wrong financial policy if they are going to give loans to women and children on the off-chance of their husbands returning home with cart-loads of gold.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 5,000 under Demand XXXI—Miscellaneous Charges—was put and carried.

The motion was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND NO. XXXVI—AGRICULTURE.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 30,000 for purchasing and stocking manures for sale to cultivators.

I shall explain briefly to the honourable members of this House the reason why I have come forward with a demand of this kind at this juncture. Honourable members are fully aware that practically Travancore has been depending on Burma, Akyab and Indo-China

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